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COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS



History-Makers on the Campus

THE nineteenth-century student of history was very often preoccupied with the remote, the antique—with “the glory that was Greece, the grandeur that was Rome.” He did not expect, on raising his eyes from the pages of Livy, to see before him in the flesh Scipio Africanus or any other hero of classical times. In 1952, the young historian in Burgess Library, typically a student of the contemporary world, might at one moment have been studying the campaigns of Eisenhower, and a few minutes later have actually encountered this new conqueror of Carthage in the elevator! Members of Columbia’s Russian Institute Student Group have had the unique experience of discussing with Kerensky, Prime Minister of the Russian Provisional Government of 1917, some of the reasons for the failure of his regime. Former Ambassador Jessup is once again meeting students on Morningside Heights. The name of Virginia Gildersleeve, a familiar figure on the campus, is inscribed with those of other delegates from the United States in the United Nations Charter. And the now President of the United States has been succeeded as President of Columbia by Grayson Kirk, himself one of the mental architects of the United Nations.

We dedicate this issue, which contains several articles about Columbia’s contributions to the political sciences, to Grayson Kirk. An educator, a historian, a statesman, he is a distinguished representative of men at Columbia who not only teach and record but also *make* history.

History in the Deep-Freeze

The Story of Columbia's Oral History Project

DEAN ALBERTSON

THE acquisition of hundreds of tape-recorded memoirs from many outstanding national and international leaders, each volume bound and sealed until the date set for release by the donor, have transformed part of Columbia University Library into a "deep-freeze" of current American history.

This is the work of the Oral History Research Office under the Direction of Professor Allan Nevins.

Born of a sincere attempt to answer the all-important, elusive historical "Why?," the project has combined the best of time-tested interviewing technique with modern electronic recording equipment to amass for future scholars a fabulous wealth of hitherto untapped source material. Complete autobiographies of the great, the famous, and the prime-movers with a passion for anonymity will be available for historians of tomorrow—memoirs which will bring into single focus the memory of a participant, the critical questioning of a trained historian, and the documentation of personal written and printed records. Frozen from the tempting sensationalism of the present, the life story of our times told in candid detail by the makers of modern history themselves will be thawed in the future light of scholarly research.

Oral History, long a dream in the mind of Professor Nevins, came into being in the fall of 1948 when he discovered that one of his advanced graduate students had interviewing experience. With a three-thousand-dollar grant from Columbia University's Bancroft Fund to finance an Oral History Experiment, Professor Nevins set program and policy, and assigned Mr. Dean Albertson the task of recording the reminiscences of prominent citizens who

had played major roles in the history of New York City and State.

The first stress was laid on political history, and George McAneny consented to be the initial interviewee. He was followed by Henry Bruere, Frederic R. Coudert, Raymond B. Fosdick, William A. Prendergast, Frederick C. Tanner and George S. Van Schaick, who filled in great gaps in the known history of New York from the days of Low and Odell to those of LaGuardia and Lehman. Then the scope was broadened. Doctors Joseph Collins and Haven Emerson contributed material on early medicine; Lawrence Veiller and Homer Folks recorded much on the little-known story of social work; while Martin Saxe and Lawson Purdy told of New York taxation and finance.

As the work began, the interviewer laboriously wrote down by hand quotations and key sentences, rushing to his typewriter when the interview had ended to fill in from memory the 80 per cent balance which he had missed. The swiftly flowing comments and witticisms of Charles C. Burlingham proved the undoing of this method. The first tape-recorders were straightway purchased early in 1949 and the "Experiment" became a Project.

The mechanization of the "two men and a lead pencil" made it quickly apparent that a vastly expanded concept of the work was in order. First, an office had to be found and two professors wryly gave up a study room on the ground floor of Butler Library. Next came the employment of a secretary, then transcribers to transform the recorded tape into manuscript. The perplexed trustees of the Bancroft Fund released an additional six thousand dollars. Special desks to hold transcribing tape-recorders and all the other paraphernalia of a business office brought to the academic halls of Columbia Library something quite apart from traditional research apparatus. Now, bulging its original quarters with a staff of twelve, the OHRO burst into an adjoining office, and two more academic administrators retreated to the higher reaches of the building.

Nevertheless, beneath outward growth and change in house-keeping effects, the Project was setting operational procedures from which it has never deviated.

Professor Nevins meets periodically with the University Committee (Dean Harry Carman, and Professors Arthur W. Macmahon, Carter Goodrich, and Archibald H. Stockder) and his staff, to map out areas of historical coverage and available prospective interviewees. Then letters are written requesting permission to interview.

To the great surprise of the OHR, the incidence of affirmative replies is about 95 per cent. Nearly every prominent American leader has an awareness of his participation in historical events and, while he is aware that a request from Columbia University to tell his story for posterity is a pleasant massaging of his ego, it is primarily his sense of history which leads him to do it. For those who refuse, the motives are mixed. His period of public life was so painful to one politician that he flatly stated he never wanted to think about it again. Another wrote that he went into public service only to "get Roosevelt out of the White House, and to end deficit government financing. . ." and so, under the circumstances, he didn't really feel that he would have much to tell.

To those who accept Oral History, its well-designed processes come as something of a shock. When the interviewer first meets say, Congressman Smith, for a conference, the latter has in mind the relaxing prospect of an amiable chat, or perhaps getting a few things straight on the record. Then he hears that the interviewer has spent weeks in research preparing himself on Mr. Smith's life and work; that it will not be two or three interviews but a long series of them ranging over a period of many weeks, even months. The harried Congressman stares in disbelief as the interviewer courteously requests that Mr. Smith rummage around in his attic or in the barn of his country home, and produce every scrap of correspondence, memoranda, diary notes, and speeches. Smith's incredulity increases by leaps and bounds when he is apprised of the fact that he is about to be asked to describe in detail (and his replies recorded) every single thing he has done, everything he has seen, and, worse!, his motives, estimates and evaluations over a busy lifetime. His infrequent golf and bridge games fade before

him as he learns that the reminiscences will proceed in an orderly chronological fashion from his infancy and early schooling, through his public life, and right up to the present day. He is about to reach for his hat as he contemplates the endless hours he will spend checking and correcting hundreds of pages of manuscript.

But he doesn't.

Instead, he considers the serious and determined historian before him. It is apparent that this is for history, and that the lessons from his own victories and defeats must be projected into the future in their most candid form. He understands that not only will his memoirs be sealed, but also that the interviewer will never reveal what he hears from Mr. Smith, either on or off the tape. One breach of confidence would wreck the whole project. Smith is made to feel the necessary cooperativeness of the venture—that the interviewer will ask every conceivable question he can think of, but that he will not attempt to badger or trick the Congressman into answering. Moreover, the interviewer has placed his time, morning, afternoon or evening, entirely at his disposal. Checking with a few friends with whom the interviewer is currently working, the interviewee is reassured, and work begins.

As soon as a recorded tape is transcribed, the script is sent to the interviewee. He checks it for accuracy, but retains its flavor as a "spoken manuscript." As soon as it is returned to the Office, processing of the script is completed. It is put in order, re-checked for typing errors, indexed, perfectly typed on most lasting bond paper, and filed, bound and sealed, in the Special Collections Department of the Library. The manuscript will not be opened for use until the date specified by the interviewee, and then it is opened only to serious and accredited research scholars.

The roster of American leaders whose memoirs are flowing into Columbia University is impressive. The memoirs of Paul Appleby, James F. Curtis, F. Trubee Davison, Learned Hand, Arthur Krock, Albert D. Lasker, Eugene Meyer, John Lord O'Brien, Robert Lincoln O'Brien, Jackson E. Reynolds, Nelson Rockefeller, Henry L. Stimson, Rexford G. Tugwell, James W. Wadsworth,

M. L. Wilson, and over two hundred others are making this collection undoubtedly one of the most priceless source archives in existence.

These memoirs, ranging in length from five hundred to fifteen hundred pages, many of them documented by personal letters and diary notes, are the backbone of the collection. The monumental five- to ten-volume memoirs of Spruille Braden, Robert H. Jackson, Marvin Jones, Frances Perkins, Henry A. Wallace, and James P. Warburg testify to the efficacy of the technique when an excellent memory is combined with enormous historical research and documentation.

The rapid development of the Oral History Office brought many problems to its staff and made it a problem child of the University. Overzealous in enthusiasm, it was painful to create competent and cooperative administrators out of the graduate students who served as project interviewers. The photo lab became jammed with rush orders. Documentary acquisitions of all types flooded the Special Collections Department. The News Bureau was apprised of releases when they read them in the morning papers. The heads of Binding, Purchasing, and Mailing departments staggered beneath the onslaught of special requests. Fortunately, academic authorities too had faith in their new offspring. With patience and good humor they calmly channeled the new energy with a course of administrative instruction, and brought Oral History within the fold of the University family.

The tape-recorder, while faithful in its reproduction of a historical narrative, proved difficult to handle. New York City's cacophonous street noises would drown out the voices. The tendency of some interviewees to stride about their offices in ex-cathedra dictation caused gaps on the tape. The innocuous little brown microphone itself caused extreme anxiety to the speaker until blended into the clutter of his desk.

Setting the recorder up out of sight of the interviewee but within instant reach of the interviewer was always a difficult problem. A corner of a desk or the space beneath a coffee table is normally

utilized. In one instance, however, where a man was interviewed in a hospital, the recorder was relegated to a position among the bedpans, and the microphone was hung alongside the call-cord.

Transcribing, too, had its preoccupations. Dictaphone transcribing techniques were inadequate because this was not "dictated" material. An ironicism or sarcastic comment was lost on the literal reproduction of the tape-recorder. Furthermore, in the intense recapitulation of a stirring event a man would make minor factual errors, misplacing a President by fifty years or sinking the wrong ship in the right battle. Transcribers, more than being typists, had to have a solid and well-informed background in American History as well as the literary ability to feel and reproduce the exact flavor and tone of the interviewee's distinctive personality. Here, Barnard history professors came to the aid of the project and established the practice of sending their best students to the OHRO upon graduation.

Transcribers, in addition to being privy to the spoken word of men who make history, occasionally find moments of contemporary drama on the tape. One transcriber, working over a discourse on shipping subsidies, heard a female voice enter the tape with the words, "Pardon me, sir, is your car parked out front?" The interviewer's voice replied, "Yes, it is." Whereupon the female voice announced, "It's on fire," and the tape recorded the hastily departing steps of the interviewer.

The delicate relationship between interviewer and interviewee soon had to be examined. The relatively youthful interviewers, whose own memory encompassed only an age of government spending and welfare projects, were apt to irritate "old-timers" in misunderstanding the emotional content still contained in such burning issues as the Gold Standard and the Protective Tariff. At times, the shoe was on the other foot. One interviewer forced himself to supreme heights of tact and historical objectivity in questioning an ardent Prohibitionist about the Noble Experiment.

But, more often than not, the interviewer's seeming intimacy with the characters of say, the Mitchel Administration, has per-

plexed an interviewee to such exclamations as, "Oh, but surely you remember. . . !," quite forgetting that the interviewer was not even born at that time. Indeed, so successful have the oral historians been in projecting their sympathy and understanding, that their role in many instances has become one of historical father confessor. Thus they find themselves able to ask safely "Why?," and to have recorded for history the kind of answer that would be given to a close friend or intimate.

Keenly aware that the recorded memoir best serves the interests of history when used in conjunction with written evidence, interviewers have always sought out papers wherever they could find them. Each interviewer has had his share of searching through sooty basements and old barns for those nearly forgotten trunks of letters. On one occasion, the response to a request for personal papers was astonishing. Mr. William Jay Schieffelin replied that he was awfully sorry but that he had not kept his personal files. All he had, he said, was one small folder, and he apologetically produced a series of eight letters from his ancestor, John Jay, written to General Schuyler during the American Revolution.

The work of the Oral History Research Office has brought to Columbia University Library several fine collections of papers, including originals and reproductions. Among them are the correspondence of onetime law partner of Franklin Roosevelt, Langdon P. Marvin; Manhattan Republican leader Herbert Parsons; former New York City Comptroller William A. Prendergast; New York State Superintendent of Insurance George S. Van Schaick; and Doctor Haven Emerson's folio of Ralph Waldo Emerson letters.

The success of Oral History documentary acquisitions has placed a severe strain on the Special Collections Department to maintain basic cataloguing, and it has been impossible to list, sort, or index all of these important collections.

Another by-product of regular Oral History work was attempted in the fall of 1949 when the interviewers made the rounds of candidates and campaign headquarters for a month preceding

the balloting in a special effort to record the history of that year's New York election as it transpired.

Candidates were cornered in smoky offices swarming with precinct workers. Operating in teams of two, one interviewer manned the tape-recorder several offices down the corridor, while the other, carrying the microphone on a fifty-foot extension, sought to capture the impressions of the principals in the midst of the fray. Subjects for interviews had to be contacted on five-minute notice for interviews which rarely ran as long as thirty minutes, and these were hurriedly sandwiched between making a speech and shaking the hands of some civic delegation.

On election night, it was intended that the special project should be rounded off with spot interviews from the flushed but happy victors, or concession comments from those defeated. With the vote still being tallied, the result yet unknown, a team of interviewers and their recording equipment appeared at Tammany Hall and naïvely set up shop. Within ten minutes, Tammany's braves had fled to the inner sanctum and the oral historians were on their way elsewhere.

While election-night recordings had proven unsuccessful, the project was able to interview not only most of the contenders for the leading offices—Herbert Lehman, Newbold Morris, Vito Marcantonio, Harry Uviller and John Foster Dulles—but also their campaign managers, finance chairmen, and “close political advisors.”

Over the four-year period of operation, the Oral History program has undergone some changes. The original basis for selecting an interviewee was that he live in or near New York City, regardless of the scope of his activity. It quickly became obvious that interviewing competency required of the interviewer enormous research in a multitude of fields, ranging all the way from 19th-century psychology and social welfare work to the complexities of international trade, New Deal farm policy, and Point Four. There were even side excursions into research on Barnum & Bailey, the bordellos of New York, muckrakers, architecture, baseball,

and woman suffrage. This scope of expert knowledge was too great for each interviewer to maintain, and specialization became imperative.

It was here that Oral History matured from a Project into a Research Office.

First, the national political-economic-social assignment was split at 1932. Mr. Albertson undertook the work in the period of the New Deal. Mr. Owen W. Bombard was employed to record the history of New York and the pre-1932 national scene. Mr. Wendell H. Link became the interviewer-specialist in the field of foreign affairs and journalism.

A special project was carried on for eighteen months by Mr. Frank Ernest Hill in interviewing the pioneers of the radio and television industry. Funds were provided for this work by the industry itself.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bombard was taken from the office by the Ford Motor Company to open a similar project in Detroit for the purpose of carrying on Oral History techniques in recording the history of the Ford family and company. He was replaced by Mr. Harlan B. Phillips, who added judicial history to the program.

The most definitive specialization in fields occurred when, in January 1952, Professor Nevins dispatched Mr. Albertson to open another Oral History Research Office in Washington, D.C. The Washington work was immediately broken along subject lines without regard to chronology. The initial study has been made of the Department of Agriculture and 20th-century American agriculture as viewed by agricultural administrators, scientists, legislators, and economists. A similar study of the Department of Labor will begin in the summer of 1953.

The financing of Oral History has always been, of course, the greatest obstacle of all. The original Bancroft Fund grant was maintained at \$9,000. Another \$6,000 has been contributed annually by the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation. A grant of \$1,000 was given by the William C. Whitney Foundation. The Washington

work was covered for a two-year period by the Old Dominion Foundation.

And yet, on this wholly inadequate albeit generous sum of money, the project has recorded over 50,000 pages of memoir manuscript, documented by a like number of personal letters.

Like most projects, university or otherwise, which contribute to progress through research, study and scientific investigation, the Oral History Research Office depends for the time being almost entirely on the vision of the men who carry it out for recognition of its possibilities.

Because history evaluated in scholarship can be of immeasurable help in the problems to come after this present time, and because Oral History seeks to provide those tools of evaluation in the fullest and most complete sense, it is a project of tomorrow rather than of today.

An Unwritten Life of Stephen Crane

DANIEL G. HOFFMAN

STEPHEN CRANE'S great time has come at last. During his own short life *The Red Badge of Courage* brought him fame—for having written the most vivid book describing a war that ended five years before he was born. But Crane was almost forgotten after his death, at twenty-eight, in 1900; the twenties saw a revival of interest, but literary fashions changed and his work was in the shadow again. Now, however, we can realize that he, more than any other American author of his time, had what Henry James called "the imagination of disaster." Stephen Crane looms large among the authors from our past who speak directly to us in the present. The news is therefore especially welcome that Columbia has just acquired by purchase what is probably the largest single collection of Crane materials in the library of any institution.

In the Columbia Crane collection there are over thirteen hundred items. Holograph and typewritten manuscripts of much of his fiction and poetry reveal the creative methods of this writer of haunting intensity. Folders bulge with letters, photographs, dance cards, household accounts, military passes, legal papers, and all sorts of memorabilia concerning the families of Crane and his wife, Cora Howorth. Here, too, are valuable letters to the Cranes from their friends: Henry James, William Dean Howells, Joseph Conrad, Wells, Shaw, Harold Frederic, Hamlin Garland—a literary *Who's Who* of England and America in the 1890's.

Mrs. Crane kept five scrapbooks, following her husband's career with wifely devotion; they are here, with clippings of newspaper articles not hitherto identified as Crane's, and reviews of his books from the newspapers of three continents. Cora Crane's own notebooks and manuscripts are here too, for she was herself a writer of parts—and one of the strangest, most puzzling women in the his-

tory of American letters. It was she who first assembled this collection (including nineteen editions of Crane's works and fifty-five volumes from his library). She kept together these trunkloads of documents and mementoes because she planned someday to write a biography of her husband. One of the completely irreplaceable items now at Columbia is a cheap, paper-bound notebook containing her pencilled notes for this biography, begun the day after Stephen Crane died.

But Cora Crane did not get beyond a dozen pages of grief-stricken memories. She never used her treasure-trove of materials. As neither Thomas Beer nor John Berryman, Crane's only biographers, had access to this collection, the definitive work on Stephen Crane remains to be done.

After Crane's untimely death in England his widow returned to the United States. At Jacksonville, Florida, she soon set up a resort known as "The Court." Before long this place gained a reputation which exiled Mrs. Crane from polite society in that Southern city. Yet its proprietress had had respectability—as well as charm—enough to help make so fastidious an observer as Henry James a family friend and frequent visitor to Brede Place, Crane's English home. He continued to write to her after Stephen's death; his letters of condolence are among the most moving documents in the collection.

Any biography of Stephen Crane will have to take full account of Cora. As a newspaper correspondent, writing under the name of Imogene Carter, she became the Marguerite Higgins of the Graeco-Turkish War in 1897. "In Athens this is war," she wrote, "... tears and flowers and blood and oratory. Surely there must be other things. I am going to try and find out at the front." The Hearst Syndicate soon had bold headlines: "WITH THE HOWITZERS . . . Last of the Writers to Go . . . Her Bravery Amazes Soldiers." But Cora's notebooks show a more sensitive, introspective woman than readers of her dispatches would suspect. Sentimental in the extreme, she filled her pages with quotations from Burns, Byron, Shakespeare, Keats, *David Copperfield*, Mrs. Browning, Seneca,

THE GHOST.

Written by

MR. HENRY JAMES, MR. ROBERT BARR,
MR. GEORGE GISSING, MR. RIDER HAGGARD,
MR. JOSEPH CONRAD, MR. H. B. MARRIOTT-
WATSON, MR. H. G. WELLS, MR. EDWIN PUGH,
MR. A. E. W. MASON AND
MR. STEPHEN CRANE.

BREDE SCHOOL HOUSE.

DECEMBER 28TH, 1899.

7.45 P.M.

DEACON, PRINTER, ETC.

Robert Barr

Edwin Pugh

*H. B. Marriott-
Watson*

Henry James

H. G. Wells

Stephen Crane

George Eliot, and a piece of doggerel by one Philander Johnson. "I have an incessant longing for love and sympathy," she confided to her notebook; whatever may have been the shortcomings of her virtue in later years, these were the two qualities she gave in fullest measure to Stephen Crane and shared with him while he lived.

The mail that came to Brede Place was full of surprises. In 1899 Mrs. Crane had solicited her friends for a fund to provide for the children of Harold Frederic, the novelist. That August Bernard Shaw replied, "We have three very expensive orphans on hand already—parents alive in every case. My impulse is to repudiate all extra orphans with loud execrations . . . I should simply take them out into the garden and bury them." But he enclosed £5 nonetheless, and added, typically, "I am greatly shocked to find that your letter is dated the 17th June; but when you know me better you will be surprised at the promptness of my reply."

And here is Henry James thanking Cora Crane for sending him some snapshots taken on his last visit (the photographs are in the collection): "All thanks for the strange images—which I never expected to behold. They form a precious memento of a romantic hour . . . I look as if I had swallowed a wasp, or a penny toy. And I tried to look so beautiful. I tried too hard, doubtless. But don't show it to any one as H. J. trying. . ."

Among the rarest and most interesting curiosities in the Columbia Crane collection is the only known copy of several pages of the script of a play entitled *The Ghost*. The writing is not distinguished, but what is remarkable is its authorship. *The Ghost* was the joint product of Messrs. Henry James, George Gissing, Joseph Conrad, Rider Haggard, H. G. Wells, two or three others, and Stephen Crane. The collection includes a printed program signed by all the authors except Gissing and Haggard.¹ Another curiosity is the file of correspondence regarding a dinner honoring

¹ While this article was in press, an interesting account of the circumstances under which *The Ghost* was produced appeared. In "The Ghost at Brede Place," *Bulletin of the New York Public Library*, December 1952, John D. Gordan writes, "Perhaps some day a manuscript of *The Ghost* will turn up among the papers of one of the collaborators . . . any curiosity that involved such an array of talent is a ghost that can never quite be laid."

Crane, sponsored by *The Philistine*, a magazine to which he contributed. Here are letters from 106 literary personages, among them John Kendrick Bangs, Ambrose Bierce, Bliss Carman, Richard Harding Davis, Charles Eliot Norton, and the Literary Editor of the Harvard *Lampoon*.

Columbia is fortunate to have these rich resources for definitive research on Crane and the literature of his time. Plans are now under way to issue a complete descriptive bibliography of this collection in time for the Bicentennial Celebration of the University in 1954. The Library hopes that its Friends will help augment these Crane holdings and thus make this collection the finest of its kind in the country. While the letters in the present collection, addressed *to* the Cranes, mirror the literary life of a whole decade, Columbia does not have a single letter *from* Stephen Crane. The acquisition of additional manuscripts of his verse and fiction would add greatly to the usefulness of what we already have. And, of course, any further mementoes of the Crane and Howorth families will be of greatest usefulness to Crane's next biographers and critics.

Columbia's New Treasure-House of Russian History

PHILIP E. MOSELY

ONE OF THE busiest but least-known activities of Columbia's busy Libraries is conducted on the top floor of the Butler Library. Here the inquiring visitor will find the new and rapidly growing Archive of Russian and East European History and Culture, an important recent addition to Columbia's unsurpassed facilities for the study of the history and literature of Russia and of current Soviet developments. In this Archive the serious scholar of things Russian can consult and analyze a wide range of original unpublished source materials. And new materials are flowing in week by week—from the United States and France, from Britain and Turkey, from Brazil and Germany—as Russian and other East European exiles learn of this opportunity to preserve their unique collections.

Does the scholar need to know, from original sources, how intelligent and well-informed members of the Russian imperial family regarded the problems and dangers which beset the old regime at the beginning of the twentieth century? Here he will find an extensive series of documents and memoirs deposited with the Archive by members of the House of Romanov, setting forth in detail their views on developments in Russia before and during the Revolution.

Between the 1860's and 1917 Russia saw a rapid development of the system of provincial and county *zemstvo* self-government. Until after the revolution of 1905 the central bureaucracy looked with suspicion and hostility on the growth of the *zemstvos*, which were winning widespread loyalty among the people because they contributed greatly to the improvement of health, education, and

farming practices. Naturally, the *zemstvos* were promptly suppressed by the Bolsheviks, who established a highly centralized rule of their own, and the *zemstvo* movement is seldom mentioned in Soviet versions of Russian history. Thanks to an extensive collection of memoirs which the Archive has received from numerous surviving leaders of the *zemstvos*, Columbia now offers scholars an opportunity for the detailed study of this significant Russian movement toward self-government.

Many students of Russian affairs, then and since, have felt that the assassination in 1911 of Prime Minister Stolypin marked the end of a promising attempt to reconstruct Russian society from above and thus to avert the outbreak of revolution from below. No comprehensive account has ever been written of Stolypin's aims and policies, and Russian archives have long since been closed to objective students. Thanks, however, to collections of documents and memoirs which have been deposited with the Archive by Stolypin's close relatives and co-workers, much new light can now be shed on his concept of a peaceful reconstruction and modernization of Russian life from above.

While the name of Lenin first became widely known in 1917, he had elaborated his program and methods of revolutionary action over the preceding twenty-five years of political struggle against the Tsarist regime and against competing political groups. The Columbia Archive is unusually rich in its collection of unpublished letters and other documents from Lenin's pen, particularly for the period 1906-1917. Here the visitor finds a remarkable correspondence in which Lenin discussed with followers and rivals the nature of the future revolution and the best means of bringing his party to power. The ways in which the great writer, Maxim Gorky, gathered money for the revolutionaries through contributions solicited from Russian merchants and manufacturers dissatisfied with the old regime, and repulsion which Gorky also felt for Lenin's disregard of ordinary human sufferings, are illustrated in unpublished correspondence.

After Lenin's party had seized power, his rule was opposed by

many disunited groups and forces in a civil war which lasted for almost three years. The Archive contains important collections which illuminate the activities and the problems of the leaders of the White Armies and the dilemmas of policy which they faced in trying to rally popular support against the Bolshevik regime, as well as numerous memoirs written by participants soon after the struggle had come to its close.

During World War II almost one-third of the Soviet population was, at one time or another, under German occupation. How did the people in western Russia and Ukraine react to the removal of Soviet control? From among the hundreds of thousands of Soviet people who were removed by force from Soviet territory or who left it voluntarily, not a few have had the urge and ability to tell the West about their experiences in their homeland, at their work, in prisons or forced-labor camps, or in the army. The Archive has received a considerable number of unpublished memoirs and other studies written down by the most recent non-returns and escapees. These provide an important source for the understanding of Soviet life and often supplement in essential ways the data for which the researcher must otherwise depend upon closely controlled Soviet sources.

People of many political views, from former high officials of the monarchy to liberal reformers and revolutionaries, have found a common interest in preserving for posterity their diaries, letters, documents, memoirs, and rare newspapers and pamphlets, and every week the Columbia Archive receives new inquiries and contributions from many countries of the free world. This eager cooperation reflects a high opinion of the impartial and scholarly role of Columbia University, for each contributor knows that his materials, whether extensive or not in scope, will be preserved and scrupulously protected against any exploitation for political or personal purposes, and will be made available under proper safeguards for study by scholars imbued with the tradition of objective research.

Each contribution is recorded in a central register, together with

the conditions set for its deposit and use. For example, certain important deposits cannot be announced until after the lapse of a definite period of years, and, in accordance with the wishes of their donors, such contributions have not been referred to in this short description. Other outstanding collections are now being studied by qualified scholars in order to round out their analysis of Russian political and literary history.

The Archive has a special concern with the study of Russia, but it is no less eager to strengthen its collections which deal with other peoples of Eastern Europe. It has received important materials which illustrate the recent history of Poland, Ukraine, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, and it welcomes deposits which concern any part of Eastern Europe.

The Archive has received the friendly support and encouragement of a number of prominent Russian writers and scholars. Prior to his death, the late Boris A. Bakhmeteff, for many years Professor at Columbia and previously Ambassador of the Russian Provisional Government to the United States, took an active hand in the plans for establishing the Archive. Professor Michael M. Karpovich, of Harvard University, a well-known historian, serves as chairman of the Sponsoring Committee. Its other members are Alexandra Tolstoy, daughter of Leo Tolstoy and an important author in her own right; Marc Aldanov, an outstanding novelist of twentieth-century Russia and its revolution; Ivan Bunin, the only Russian Nobel Prize winner in Literature and one of the last members of the great Russian school of humanist novelists; Alexei Maklakoff, a distinguished liberal leader and historian; and Boris Nicolaevsky, author of numerous works on the history of the Russian revolutionary movement. The membership of the Sponsoring Committee has established clearly in the minds of Russians scattered throughout the free world the great significance of the Archive as a leading center for the preservation and scientific study of original materials of Russian history.

Through the unfailing cooperation of Dr. Carl M. White, Director of the Libraries, of Dr. Richard Logsdon, and of other

officers of the Libraries, the Archive has been provided with excellent facilities for its work. A special locked cage, with controlled access, has been provided for the systematic protection of the collections. The most modern conditions—protection against sunlight (the worst enemy of archival materials), a constant humidity and temperature, fireproof quarters—have been arranged. In addition, a large corner room provides ample space for the Archive workers and for scholars who are doing research on its materials. Mr. Lev F. Magerovsky, who helped to organize the Russian Archive in Prague and served as its Assistant Director for many years, has been Curator of the Archive since its establishment. Aside from the facilities and services furnished by the University Libraries, the financial requirements of the Archive are being provided for the first five years, beginning in July 1951, as a part of the activities of Columbia's Russian Institute, whose research program has received the support of a generous grant made by the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Libraries' new Archive of Russian and East European History and Culture adds immeasurably to the University's research resources in the Russian field. It is strengthening further the research program of the University's Russian Institute, which, since its establishment in 1946, has trained more than one hundred and fifty young men and women for work in government and international service, in journalism and in research institutes, and has provided teachers of Russian and Soviet affairs for more than forty colleges and universities in the United States and in several other countries.

Lenin Sends Directions to the Bolshevist Underground

The interesting letter from Lenin of which the first page is reproduced here was addressed presumably to G. L. Shklovsky and written in the early summer of 1914. It chiefly reflects Lenin's highly emotional reaction to the news of Roman Malinovsky's resignation from the Duma on May 8, 1914 and his flight abroad. For its glimpse into the workings of the Bolshevik Underground, we give a translation of the letter. (The marginal notes and drawings on the first page, not translated, give directions for journeying by rail via Cracow to Lenin's residence in Zakopane in Galicia.)

Dear G. L.

Do you know what M[alinov]sky has gone and done??

We are beside ourselves with this idiocy.

M[alinov]sky is gone. This "flight" nourishes the worst thoughts. Russian newspapers have telegraphed to Burtsev that M[alinov]sky is accused of provocation!!

Unbelievable!!

Today a telegram [was received] from Paris. Rus[skoe] Slovo telegraphs to Burtsev that suspicions have diminished considerably, but other newspapers (???) liqui[dat]ors) continue to accuse!

Burtsev has heard nothing.

Petrovsky telegraphed today: "Slandorous rumors dispelled," but liqui[dat]ors) "are conducting an odious campaign." That is their business, of course, to conduct an odious campaign.

Prepare Samoilov, so that [continuation on second page of letter, not shown] his nerves won't act up!

It is ridiculous to be nervous.

By the way. There is a reelection in Moscow. Between us: Samoilov is very much needed for a journey. Answer me immediately (without saying a word to him) whether he is able to travel. If not, when will he be able? Exact information about his health? (Weight, sleeping, etc. etc.) Talk with the doctor. Answer immediately.

How about Zgr?? Hasn't everything been sent yet to Vink? You know, of course, that we must utilize Vink, to bring the matter to an end. For God's sake, give that fool Zgrapen a real going-over.

Quicker. Hurry up. Am waiting copy of his letter already sent to Vink. Greetings. Yours, Lenin.

P.S. If he is able to go to Russia now for 2-3 weeks, then wait for a telegram from me: one word "must" will signify Samoilov should immediately come to us here.

One of the baffling figures among the pre-1917 revolutionaries who were closest to Lenin was Malinovsky, a Bolshevik leader in the Fourth Duma. When the Bolsheviks came to power in 1917, the opening up of the Tsarist police records revealed that Malinovsky had been a police agent and provocateur over many years—a fact which had been repeatedly alleged by colleagues and opponents of Lenin at an earlier date. Returning voluntarily to Russia in 1918, he was executed after a swift and secret trial.

In the maze of revolutionary conspiracy and factional strife within the Social Democratic party, Lenin's relations with Malinovsky have baffled observers and historians. Lenin appears not to have recognized Malinovsky's "treachery"; or he may have chosen to ignore it for complex reasons of revolutionary intrigue.

Vladimir Burtsev, referred to by Lenin, was a talented journalist and historian of the revolutionary movement, generally respected by all factions as its "conscience" because of his unrelenting and sharp-witted struggle against the too frequent "double agents" who infiltrated its ranks. Burtsev had previously played a leading part in the exposure of Azeff, who was for many years simultaneously a leading organizer of terrorist acts and a police-spy. Although Burtsev had, prior to May 1914, passed on to Lenin rumors of Malinovsky's double-dealing, Lenin remained unconvinced of his guilt until 1917, when he was able to study the files of the Tsarist OKHRANA. "Zgrapen" and "Vink" are code-names, referring apparently to members of the underground railway which linked the revolutionary centers in Russia and abroad.

As can be seen from the letter, the only "provocation" which Lenin recognized was the suspicions and doubts raised by his opponents, whom he lumps together as "liquidators." By this term Lenin described all those Social Democrats who refused to accept the orders of a hand-picked "Central Committee," the election of which he had engineered at a rump-conference in 1912 and in which he had included Malinovsky as a key-member! The strong emotional reaction which Lenin's letter displayed at a crucial moment in the life of the Bolshevik Party makes this a document of great significance for the history of Russia. (Note based in large part on THREE WHO MADE A REVOLUTION by Bertram D. Wolfe, New York, 1948.)

Our Growing Collections

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

FOR MORE than half a century there has been a vigorous interest in the artistic and graphic requirements of the advertising poster—whether for circus, for Broadway hit, for condensed milk, or for the latest best seller. Many monographs on the technique and philosophy of the poster have been written. Within recent weeks a great New York newspaper devoted nearly a full-page spread in its Sunday drama section to an illustrated critique lamenting the lack of “that old-time punch” in modern theatrical posters. Dignified art galleries have featured innumerable exhibitions of “The Poster.” Collectors for more than two generations have sought out specimens of the poster work of Toulouse-Lautrec, Beardsley, Chéret, Grasset, Pennell, Bradley—to cull only a handful of names from the long list of artists who have at one time or another turned seriously to the design of advertising bills. Dealers in rare books and art objects have fostered this interest, acquiring stocks of pristine examples as they have come off the press and searching for recoverable specimens from the forgotten past, all for the purpose of guiding them into the collections of connoisseurs.

One of the leading sources for posters in recent decades was maintained by the late Gabriel Engel (A.B. 1913), whose office in Union Square had long been the haunt of collectors of modern first editions. Mr. Engel’s catalogues came increasingly to emphasize “pictorial posters”—arising, doubtless, from his own abiding interest in the subject. The catalogues are in themselves collectors’ items, for their descriptions draw on the deep experience and personal knowledge of posters and poster artists which Mr. and Mrs. Engel had gleaned over the years.

Within the past few weeks the entire stock of posters remaining

in Mr. Engel's establishment after his death came to Columbia University as an anonymous gift, in tribute to his memory. Only the most cursory kind of estimate has so far been possible, but it is likely that at least 10,000 pieces are included. It may well be that, because of this gift, Columbia can be ranked among the leading repositories of this fascinating but fragile resource for research in the graphic arts.

Of very special significance in this connection is another anonymous gift of a highly selective collection of literary and artistic posters, numbering a little over five hundred pieces. This is a most exceptional group, the individual items having been carefully picked for their condition and merit. More than four hundred, for example, were chosen to represent the work of such artists as Abbey, Beardsley, Bradley, Kemble, Outcault, Parrish, Penfield, Pennell, Pyle, Remington, Rogers, and their peers. Among them is a series of bills prepared by various artists some fifty years ago to advertize the American editions of some of Kipling's best-known works. The balance of the collection is made up of English and American posters of World War I, and a small selection of rail-roading prints and views of our national parks.

During the past year there have been repeated occasions for reporting gifts by Mr. Harry G. Friedman, a member of the Friends. Scarcely an issue of the *COLUMNS* has been without mention of some presentation he has made—now a medieval liturgical manuscript, now an early edition of Tasso, again an important colonial Boston imprint, or a collection of the 17th/18th-century municipal records of a suburb of Rome.

This issue will mark no exception. Mr. Friedman's most recent gift is a two-volume set of Campegius Vitringa's commentaries on the prophet Isaiah, printed in the German city of Herborn in 1722. Vitringa was one of the Pietists of the early 18th century, notable for his influence in overcoming the Lutheran objections to the Adventists—who held the belief, recurrent throughout medieval and renaissance times, and supported by such eminent men

of science as Napier and Newton, that the second advent of Christ was imminent.

Mr. Everette L. DeGolyer has presented to the Geology Library the first work on geology to be published in the New World. It is Andrés Manuel Del Rio's *Elementos de Oricognosia*, issued in two volumes in Mexico City, 1795 and 1805. No copy of this edition is listed as being in the Library of Congress, and only the first part is recorded in the British Museum.

Del Rio himself settled in America in 1829, and published several geological studies in American journals. He became president of the Geological Society of Pennsylvania in 1834-35.

Some two hundred volumes on hydraulics and related subjects, the technical portion of the library of the late Dr. Boris A. Bakhmeteff, have been presented in his name by Mrs. Bakhmeteff to the Egleston Engineering Library. Dr. Bakhmeteff, formerly Professor of Civil Engineering at Columbia, was internationally known as an authority on fluid mechanics. His library comprised books of the highest quality and usefulness and provided data assisting him substantially in his research, which produced such classics in engineering as *Hydraulics of Open Channels* and *The Mechanics of Turbulent Flow*.

Not all of the acquisitions which come to the Libraries are books or manuscripts or funds with which to provide such red corpuscles for our library system. Some benefactions take the welcome form of service. An especially notable example of this is to be found in a recent letter of acceptance of an invitation to become a member of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries. It came from Laura S. Young, a master bookbinder who instructs in the Graphic Arts division of General Studies. With Mrs. Young's permission a portion of her letter follows:

"As evidence of my real interest in the welfare of the libraries, I should like to offer to repair or restore, annually, one volume

which needs special treatment—perhaps from Avery's special collection. This I realize is not 'books or other material, or cash,' but I venture to make this offer . . . because I feel very strongly that any great institution can materially strengthen its organization by recognizing and utilizing the specialized knowledge and abilities of its staff."

Other Recent Gifts

ART CATALOGS. A collection of 357 important sales catalogs reflecting noted European private art collections over the past century. *From Samuel Silverman.*

INSCRIBED EDITIONS. A group of 28 autographed copies of works by contemporary authors, autographed to the donor; other volumes by earlier writers; and a check from Fields, Osgood & Co. to Harriet Beecher Stowe, August 18, 1870, countersigned by her. *From Professor and Mrs. Donald L. Clark.*

FORD PEACE EXPEDITION. A collection of pamphlets, documents, clippings, photographs, etc., relating to the Ford Peace Expedition of World War I. *From Mary Alden Hopkins.*

CHINESE BRONZES. *Senoku seishô*, a catalog in 12 volumes describing old bronzes in the collection of the late Baron Sumitomo. Profusely illustrated and containing detailed explanatory notes by leading authorities. *From the*

Tokyo office of the Sumitomo Company.

WHITMAN WRITINGS. Various American magazines containing early printings of poems, essays, etc., by Walt Whitman, Samuel Clemens, and others. *From Mrs. Frank J. Sprague.*

FAMOUS BIBLES. A set of 60 original leaves from famous Bibles, 1121-1935, issued for exhibit purposes by Otto F. Ege, Cleveland School of Art and Western Reserve University, ca. 1935. *From Mrs. Frank J. Sprague.*

AUTHORS' MANUSCRIPTS. Original manuscript of *Before the Sun Goes Down*. *From the author, Elizabeth Metzger Howard.*

Original manuscript of *On Native Ground*. *From the author, Alfred Kazin.*

JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY. A set of six volumes of the philosophical interpretations of Dr. Yoshishige Abe, President of Sakushu-in University, Tokyo. *From the author.*

The Editor Visits Burgess Library

THERE is a lively atmosphere in Burgess, the Library at Columbia which serves the departments of anthropology, history, public law, government, and sociology. Even during the vacation, on the day after New Year's, it gently seethed, and we were told that in term-time every seat in the big reading-rooms is taken and there are queues for the catalogues.

We walked around the rooms with the young Librarian, Paul Palmer, and studied the titles of the books. It was like making a quick trip around the world, both contemporaneously and backward in time, for the theme of Burgess is the history and behavior of all the races of man. But instead of the usual inane guides who frustrate travellers, one finds there the greatest spirits of our own and past epochs, eager to conduct the student to uttermost places and times.

There is nothing static about Burgess. Books constantly come and go. Professors in some two hundred courses offered by the Faculty of Political Science specify which titles are to be placed there for required reading, while the librarians keep weeding out those which are no longer in demand. Mr. Palmer showed us some of the bibliography sheets submitted by faculty members, and we realized that his job was a very interesting one, in that he had the chance to work with and become familiar with materials suggested by some of the keenest and most stimulating minds in the country on their special subjects. We also realized that this particular librarian's task was not always an easy one. What to do, for instance, about the instructor with only 25 students who asks for ten copies of a certain volume to be placed on the shelves? Or the handwritten list with abbreviated, often misleading information? Or the list which arrives only a day or two before the course is to begin, requesting rare, hard-to-find items not in the Columbia collections? Or the young instructor, thrilled with his never-pre-

viously-offered course, who would like Burgess to purchase an excessive number of expensive books? The Librarian has to deal efficiently and diplomatically with these problems. He showed us, in passing, a copy of an obscure book, of which five copies had been requested by a professor. This copy (the only one purchased) had never been taken out, although it had been there some time, and it had hardly been looked into, judging by the protesting crackle it emitted when opened. "I have to try to estimate what is a reasonable number of copies to order," he explained. Outside on a bulletin board he showed us the dust cover of this particular volume, along with half a dozen others. "Some of these are new acquisitions which are not being read," he said, sounding a little like an anxious father with a backward child. "We try in this way to bring them to the students' attention."

Your editor kept prowling around the rooms, fascinated by this microcosm of the world. On one shelf we found James Jones's *From Here to Eternity* and Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead*. "They're used for the history of World War II," said the Librarian, and we rendered a mental salute to the instructor who had so imaginatively perceived the teaching value of "popular" literature. There were many books on Russia, running the gamut from Lenin to Masaryk. "Russia shares the honors with that perennial favorite, Lincoln and the Civil War, as one of the two most studied subjects in the history field," Mr. Palmer told us.

". . . Our most popular book? Well, the first one I think of is Mills's *White Collar*. Probably the students are doing some extra-curricular reading with that one—sort of finding out about themselves. The same thing goes for Riesman's *The Lonely Crowd*."

We were curious about the Library as a barometer of student interests. The Librarian hazarded a guess that early in the century ancient history and the French Revolution would have been among the favorite subjects. Now these are crowded out by interest in contemporary revolutions, or nationalist movements, such as those of Eastern Europe, the Far East, and Africa, and by new sciences like anthropology and sociology. As soon as they become

established, these new sciences also start to change. Anthropologists who once measured the heads of "primitives" now measure the marital and job satisfactions of the American white-collar class, and the change is faithfully reflected on the shelves of Burgess.

John Berthel, in charge of Butler Library (of which Burgess is a part), added some comments of his own. He reminded us that Burgess in term-time has to meet the daily reading requirements of four to five thousand students. Its 20,000 volumes are thumbed over many times in the reading-rooms, besides which each book is borrowed an average of ten times during the year for outside reading. He compared the ebb and flow of students, with sudden influxes at the end of each lecture hour, to the violent rise and fall of the tide in the Bay of Fundy. "We try to run Burgess," he said, "with the streamlined efficiency of a factory assembly line. At the same time it has to be flexible, compact, and sensitive to changing interests; an epitome, not of the ivory tower, or of the contemplative scriptorium of the Middle Ages, but of a great modern university in action."

On the way out we were checked by a conscientious student for contraband. Our battered notebook was passed. We had to abandon our idea of returning and smuggling out some of the books which had especially attracted us: the Skira *Etruscan Painting*, Lloyd Morris's *Incredible New York*, Mills's *White Collar*. The sequel to our visit to Burgess was another and more expensive visit—to a bookstore.

Activities of The Friends

ON WEDNESDAY evening January 7, at the sixth meeting of the "Date with a Book" series in McMillin Academic Theater, we were treated to an interesting and hilarious program of folk tales and songs, with Mr. Carl Carmer as narrator and Professor Harry W. Jones of the Columbia Law School as guitarist and singer. Afterward the Friends adjourned to the Women's Faculty Club for an informal and exceedingly pleasant hour, which was further enlivened with generous entertainment by our guests of honor.

We would remind our members that there are still three programs to come in this series.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

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* * *

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